

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON  
AT TACOMA

SYNTRIX BIOSYSTEMS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

ILLUMINA, INC.,

Defendant.

CASE NO. C10-5870 BHS

ADDITIONAL RULINGS RE:  
MOTIONS IN LIMINE

This matter comes before the Court on the parties' motions in limine (Dkts. 159 & 163) and the arguments presented at the pre-trial conference. During the conference, the Court took some issues under consideration and stated that it would issue a ruling before trial. The three issues that require clarification are (1) reexamination and related testimony, (2) objectiveness standards, and (3) the previously accused SAM product.

**A. Reexamination**

The parties have not cited and the Court is unaware of any binding authority regarding the admissibility of reexamination proceedings. Thus, such evidence is subject

1 to the general rules of evidence. *See, e.g., Belden Technologies Inc. v. Superior Essex*  
2 *Communications LP*, 802 F. Supp. 2d 555, 568–569 (D. Del. 2011).

3 In light of the parties’ briefs and counsels’ arguments, the Court finds that there  
4 are two relevant, non-prejudicial facts that must be conveyed to the jury. First, prior art  
5 asserted by Illumina was submitted to and reviewed by the patent office. On this issue,  
6 the Federal Circuit has held that such review may entitle evidence to more weight. *Sciele*  
7 *Pharma Inc. v. Lupin Ltd.*, 684 F.3d 1253, 1260–1261 (Fed. Cir. 2012). The best  
8 solution, in the Court’s opinion, is to introduce the concept of a reexamination  
9 proceeding in preliminary instruction number 2 (Federal Circuit Bar Assoc. Model Patent  
10 Jury Instructions § A.1 (2012)) and then, when the prior art at issue is introduced, the  
11 witness may testify as to whether it was considered during the original examination, the  
12 reexamination, both or neither. This solution ameliorates any concern or objection as to  
13 “super examiners,” the overworked patent office, and the fact that Illumina requested the  
14 *ex parte* examination, which are highly prejudicial topics. This solution will also limit  
15 the testimony of Nicholas P. Godici, which was an issue of concern for the Court as well  
16 as Illumina.

17 Second, as part of its willfulness argument, Syntrix requests that it be allowed to  
18 provide evidence that Illumina was aware of the patent before the reexamination was  
19 requested. Dkt. 197 at 10. This can be admitted by stipulation or direct question to  
20 Illumina’s witness and Syntrix’s concern is a nonissue.

21 Therefore, the Court requests proposed alterations to the Court’s preliminary  
22 instruction no later than February 22, 2013. Objections to the Court’s instant rulings will

1 be addressed and entered into the record on the first day of trial before preliminary  
2 instructions are read to the empanelled jury.

3 **B. Objectiveness Standards**

4 In 2007 the Supreme Court relaxed the standard for obviousness. *KSR Int'l Co. v.*  
5 *Teleflex Inc.*, 550 U.S. 398 (2007). The '682 Patent issued before this decision and was  
6 reexamined after it. During reexamination, however, the patent was not subject to a *de*  
7 *novo* review for obviousness, in which case there would be no issue before the Court.  
8 Because there was no *de novo* review, the Court finds the different standards relevant and  
9 the jury shall be informed that the patent issued under a more stringent standard as  
10 applied to invalidity. The Court also finds that such information is not unduly prejudicial  
11 because the jury will also be informed that their job is to follow the law as to the current  
12 standard and the current burden. Therefore, the Court also requests a proposed  
13 instruction as to the different standards. The parties may argue, in closing arguments, the  
14 fact that the patent issued under a different standard and how the evidence applies to  
15 obviousness under the current standard.

16 **C. SAM Product**

17 It is undisputed that Illumina sold or sells at least two products: the SAM product  
18 and the accused BeadChip product. Illumina contends that (1) during the early stages of  
19 the litigation, Syntrix accused both products of infringing, (2) Syntrix dropped SAM as  
20 an accused product when it determined that the SAM product was prior technology to the  
21 '682 Patent, and (3) the SAM technology is virtually identical to the BeadChip  
22

1 technology. The Court finds that all of this information is relevant and that none of it, if  
2 true, is unfairly prejudicial. Therefore, the Court denies Syntrix's motion on this issue.

3 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

4 Dated this 14th day of February, 2013.

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7 BENJAMIN H. SETTLE  
8 United States District Judge  
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